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Title: Need to confer Bharat Ratna Award on Vinayak Damodar Sawarkar, the great freedom fighter.

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Madam Speaker, we all are well aware of the contributions of Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Sawarkar made during Freedom Struggle of India. He was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for 13 years in Cellular Jail at Andaman by the British Government.

During the time of his imprisonment, he carved out some poems on the walls of the Jail. Also he wrote many poems during the imprisonment. He was amongst many Freedom Fighters jailed in Cellular Jail, Port Blair who sacrificed their precious lives for the freedom of the Nation.

Being a true Indian, it is a matter of pride for ourselves that last year Honourable Prime Minister took an initiative to release a Music Album based on the poems of Swatantryaveer Sawarkar written by him during his imprisonment in Cellular Jail as a tribute to this Great Freedom Fighter. By honouring Veer Sawarkar, after a long spell of 65 years, the present Government recognized the contributions made by all the Freedom Fighters during the Freedom Struggle and sacrificed their lives for a noble cause.

In his work, Sawarkar promotes a radical new vision of Hindu social and political consciousness. He described a 'Hindu' as a Patriotic inhabitant of Bharatvarsha, venturing beyond religious identity. He defined the Hindu race as "That people who live as children of a common motherland, adoring a common holyland."

On behalf of myself, my party Shivsena and on behalf of all the people of Maharashtra and all the countrymen, I demand the Government to consider conferring Bharat Ratna Award on Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Sawarkar this year. It will be a fitting tribute to this Great Freedom Fighter.